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The power of Web 2.0: Teacher-librarians become school technology leaders

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Abstract (summary)

This paper reports on a study that sought to understand the impact of a graduate level Web 2.0 course on the personal, teaching, and professional lives of teacher-librarians. An online survey asked teachers and teacher-librarians about their experiences before and after completing the course. After taking the course, participants were familiar with a variety of Web 2.0 technologies and were able to use these tools personally, for teaching and for professional development. Participants gained confidence and competence in their technology skills and have taken on leadership roles in terms of technology integration and are often the "go to" person in their school for Web 2.0 technologies. [PUBLICATION ABSTRACT]

Full Text

Headnote

This paper reports on a study that sought to understand the impact of a graduate level Web 2.0 course on the personal, teaching, and professional lives of teacher-librarians. An online survey asked teachers and teacher-librarians about their experiences before and after completing the course. After taking the course, participants were familiar with a variety of Web 2.0 technologies and were able to use these tools personally, for teaching and for professional development. Participants gained confidence and competence in their technology skills and have taken on leadership roles in terms of technology integration and are often the "go to" person in their school for Web 2.0 technologies.

Introduction

To be effective educators in the 21st century, teacher-librarians need to be familiar and comfortable with new technologies. Today's new technologies include Web 2.0 (and soon Web 3.0) which are the web-based tools that are readily available, often free, and used to communicate, collaborate and create. Blogs, wikis, photo and video sharing sites, digital storytelling sites and social networking (e.g. Facebook or MySpace) are all examples of Web 2.0 technologies. As Solomon and Schrum (2007) stated, "we can take advantage of the features that new tools offer and tap into students' natural affinity for these tools in order to create learning experiences that expand their worldview and enhance what they learn" (p. 24). Teacher-librarians, as school leaders in the area of technology in the 21st century, need to be fearless, playful and connected.

As school leaders who work with all teachers and students, teacher-librarians are well positioned to take on technology integration leadership roles. According to Everhart, Mardis and Johnston (2010), highly certified teacher-librarians "felt strong commitments to and experienced success with technology leadership with students to a great extent and with teachers to a lesser, but not insignificant, extent" (p.12). On the other hand, according to Hanson-Baldauf and Hassell (2007), students enrolled in school library media certification programs were not "adequately prepared for the task of using and integrating information and communication technologies into their teaching" (p. 8). How then, do we prepare teacher-librarians to be school leaders in technology integration?

This paper will present a brief overview of the content and pedagogy of an online graduate-level class for teacher-librarians in Web 2.0 technologies. This course provides graduate students with the opportunity to explore RSS feeds, social bookmarking, wikis, social networking, photo, video and multimedia file sharing, and podcasting. Teacher-librarians blog about their experiences playing with these Web 2.0 technologies and discuss

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Appendix

Appendix: Participant Survey Instrument

1. Which of the following Web 2.0 tools had you used PRIOR to taking the Web 2.0 course for PERSONAL use? *

* Facebook

* MySpace

* Nings

* Wikis

* Blogs

* Podcasts

* Videocasts

* Youtube

* TeacherTube

- * Voicethread

- * Animoto

- * Diigo

- * Delicious

- * Flickr

- * Picasa

- * Twitter

- * RSS Reader

- * Other:

2. Please provide some specific examples of how you used these tools personally prior to taking the Web 2.0 course.

3. Which of the following Web 2.0 tools had you used with students or teachers in your classroom or library PRIOR to taking the Web 2.0 course? *

- * Facebook

- * MySpace

- * Nings

- * Wikis

- * Blogs

- * Podcasts

- * Videocasts

- * Youtube

- * TeacherTube

- * Voicethread

- * Animoto

- * Diigo

- * Delicious

- * Flickr

- * Picasa

- * Twitter

- * RSS Reader

- * Other:

4. Please provide some specific examples of how you used these tools with teachers or students in your

classroom or library prior to taking the Web 2.0 course.

5. Which of the following Web 2.0 tools had you used for your own professional learning or development (e.g. as part of a professional learning community) PRIOR to taking the Web 2.0 course?

- * Facebook
- * MySpace
- * Nings
- * Wikis
- * Blogs
- * Podcasts
- * Videocasts
- * Youtube
- * TeacherTube
- * Voicethread
- * Animoto
- * Diigo
- * Delicious
- * Flickr
- * Picasa
- * Twitter
- * RSS Reader
- * Other:

6. Please provide some specific examples of how you used these tools for your own professional development prior to taking the Web 2.0 course.

7. Which of the following Web 2.0 tools do you still use personally now that the Web 2.0 course is over?

- * Facebook
- * MySpace
- * Nings
- * Wikis
- * Blogs
- * Podcasts
- * Videocasts
- * Youtube

- * TeacherTube
- * Voicethread
- * Animoto
- * Diigo
- * Delicious
- * Flickr
- * Picasa
- * Twitter
- * RSS Reader
- * Other:

8. Please provide some specific examples of how you now use these tools personally.

9. Which of the following Web 2.0 tools do you still use with students and teachers in your classroom or school library now that the Web 2.0 course is over?

- * Facebook
- * MySpace
- * Nings
- * Wikis
- * Blogs
- * Podcasts
- * Videocasts
- * Youtube
- * TeacherTube
- * Voicethread
- * Animoto
- * Diigo
- * Delicious
- * Flickr
- * Picasa
- * Twitter
- * RSS Reader
- * Other:

10. Please provide some specific examples of how you now use these tools with students or teachers.

11. Which of the following Web 2.0 tools do you still use for your own professional learning or development now that the Web 2.0 course is over?

- * Facebook
- * MySpace
- * Nings
- * Wikis
- * Blogs
- * Podcasts
- * Videocasts
- * Youtube
- * TeacherTube
- * Voicethread
- * Animoto
- * Diigo
- * Delicious
- * Flickr
- * Picasa
- * Twitter
- * RSS Reader
- * Other:

12. Please provide some specific examples of how you now use these tools for professional learning or development.

13. Which Web 2.0 tool can you not live without in your personal life?

14. Which Web 2.0 tool can you not live without for teaching and learning?

15. Which Web 2.0 tool can you not live without for your own professional growth and development?

16. Which of the following Web 2.0 tools are currently blocked or filtered in your school?

- * Facebook
- * MySpace
- * Nings
- * Wikis
- * Blogs

- * Podcasts
- * Videocasts
- * Youtube
- * TeacherTube
- * Voicethread
- * Animoto
- * Diigo
- * Delicious
- * Flickr
- * Picasa
- * Twitter
- * RSS Reader
- * Other:

17. Do you have any other comments to share about your use of Web 2.0 tools for personal use, teaching, learning, or professional development and growth?

18. Please enter the code you received as part of your participation letter.

19. What is your current position?

20. What grade level(s) do you teach?

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Indexing (details)

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